



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1941.

TRAVEL 203,500 MILES TO PROTECT ALASKA'S WILDLIFE: EXPORTS RISE

Fourteen wildlife agents of the Alaska Game Commission traveled 203,500 miles last year to protect the Territory's wildlife resources from poachers, illegal trappers, and other violators, according to its annual report made to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Fur exports continued to rise, the fifth year of increase, with a total of 565,553 pelts bringing Alaskans over \$1,958,500. In the 16 years that export records have been kept, the Territory has shipped out almost 7,079,000 fur pelts for an aggregate of \$40,654,000.

The Alaska Game Commission is the operating agency in the Territory for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In apprehending violators, wildlife agents used every means of travel available: Agents spent 675 hours in airplanes, for a total of 109,150 miles of travel. Patrol vessels carried the men 24,600 miles; outboard motorboats, 16,400; commercial steamers, 4,700; railroads, 3,600; and dog teams, 1,700 miles. To reach otherwise inaccessible areas, the agents walked 6,257 miles to "get their men."

Of 174 violators prosecuted during the fiscal year, 169 were convicted, 2 were acquitted, and 3 have cases pending. Violators were sentenced to an aggregate of 1,590 days in jail, fined \$6,215, and forfeited articles sold for \$13,000.

Largest individual seizure of illegal game was at Juneau, where a Commission officer found 15 deer on a seine boat.

Big-game hunting attracted nonresident and alien sportsmen who shipped out 244 animals; bears, 133; mountain sheep, 52; moose, 21; caribou, 20; mountain goats, 15; and deer, 30.

Fur shipments from Alaska during the year included 158 black bears for an average of \$2 each; 62 polar bears, \$27 each; 14,630 beaver, \$18; 2,080 coyotes, \$5; 9,031 red foxes, \$7; 1,501 cross foxes, \$13; 632 silver foxes, \$27; 4,634 white foxes, \$11.25; 8,844 blue foxes, \$19.25; 270 hares, 10 cents; 1,196 marmots, 50 cents; and 9,626 martens, for an average of \$32 each.

Some 43,700 minks brought an average of \$8.50 each; 453,300 muskrats, \$1.10; 2,804 land otters, \$10.50; 720 squirrels, 10 cents; 9,895 weasels (ermine), 60 cents; 444 wolves, \$18; 326 wolverines, \$5.50; and 1,698 lynxes, for an average of \$43.50 each.

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